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McCone Is Called Back to Duty

The appointment of a CIA director is difficult to assess because of the necessary secrecy about his duties.

The agency is an intelligence-gathering center. It would appear on the surface that the man for the job should have Allen Dulles' background as long-time head of a spy ring.

But CIA's role is so important, and the agency so big, the job requires a top administrator, able to absorb and evaluate data, and transmit it to policy makers.

John A. McCone has a fine background as business administrator, former Air Force Under Secretary and former head of the Atomic Energy Commission, which has been a super-secret government agency.

He knows how policy is made at top levels of government. His most notable policy position was at the AEC, favoring resumption of testing, a stand which consistently ran contrary to the final decision of two Administrations. That did not mean he was wrong. It is impossible yet to determine who was right.

CIA has come into some disrepute as a result of the U-2 and Cuban incidents, but the role of Dulles as a policy maker in these matters is not known outside the top circle in government and may have been small.

The nation can be sure, however, that one devoted public servant is being replaced by another who will work just as hard for the country.

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